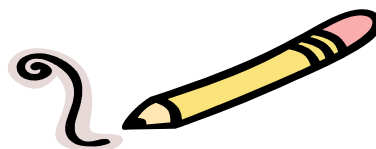


# ALLAN HANCOCK COLLEGE WRITING CENTER

## TRANSITIONAL WORDS



Transitions are words or phrases that help your sentences flow smoothly and enable your readers to follow your ideas easily. In addition to signaling **order** to your reader, transitional words can also link the sentences within a paragraph. By linking one sentence to another, they make the general statements more interesting.

### Some transitional words that signal **time or sequence order**:

first	to begin with	in the past	in the morning	at breakfast
second	next	now, later	at noon	at lunch
third	then	soon	toward afternoon	at dinner
last	finally	in the future	by evening	at night

### Some transitional words that signal **space or location order**:

at the top	in front of	on the left	near
above	beyond	on the right	next, next to
against	in the distance	in the center	below
alongside	inside, or inside of	outside of	to the right
amid	at the bottom	in the back	throughout
among	inside, inside of	in back of	under

### Some transitional words that signal **importance order or a sequence of events**:

first	to begin with	for one thing	soon
second	first of all	in addition	later
third	next	furthermore	also
after	as soon as	most important	most important of all
finally	finally and most important	last and most important	

Transition words or phrases can be utilized in other ways to add **order, clarity, and coherence** to your writing.

### Some transitions which can be used to **compare ideas**:

in the same way	likewise	as
also	like	similarly

### Some transitions which can be used to **contrast ideas** (the opposite):

but	yet	on the other hand	although	otherwise
however	in the meantime	on the contrary	even though	counter to
even so	nevertheless	still	conversely	as opposed to

Some transitions which can be used to **emphasize a point:**

again	indeed	with this in mind	for this reason
to repeat	in fact	to emphasize	truly

Some transitions which can be used to **conclude or summarize:**

as a result	consequently	accordingly	in short	in summary	due to
finally	in conclusion	therefore	thus	all in all	on the whole

Some transitions which can be used to **add information:**

again	additionally	and	furthermore	finally
also	in addition	likewise	as well	
another	equally important	moreover	next	

Some transitions which can be used to **clarify ideas:**

that is	put another way	to clarify
in other words	stated differently	for instance

**When using transitions, remember to:**

1. Choose the transition that best conveys your meaning.
2. Note that the transitional words or phrases do not always appear at the beginning of a sentence, but can be inserted wherever they seem appropriate.
3. When you have a transition at the beginning of a sentence, you should put a comma after it.